

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

NIC-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 IO-10 /089 W

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P R 260949Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1398

INFO US MISSION NATO 552

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

CINCUSNAVEUR

CONFIDENTIAL MADRID 2017

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE LIBERATION ARMY

1. SPANISH MEDIA IS GIVING HEAVY COVERAGE TO STATEMENTS OF COL. EURICO CARVACHO, CHIEF OF STAFF OF OPORTO MILITARY REGION, REGARDING EXISTENCE OF "PORTUGUESE LIBERATION ARMY" WITH "BASES" IN SPANISH CITIES OF MADRID AND SALAMANCA.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, COL. CARVACHO ACKNOWLEDGED SPANISH GOVT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS GROUP. CONCOMITANTLY, GOS SPOKESMAN FROM MFA'S OFFICE OF DIPLOMATIC INFORMATION REPORTEDLY STATED "OFFICIALLY, SPANISH GOVT KNOWS NOTHING, AND HAS RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM PORTUGUESE GOVT ON MATTER." SPOKESMAN ADDED SPAIN'S POSITION WAS NON-INTERFERENCE IN AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND WOULD NOT PERMIT SUCH ACTIVITIES AGAINST GOVERNMENTS WITH WHICH SPAIN HAD GOOD RELATIONS. OFFICE OF SPANISH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SECURITY SAID TO HAVE ANNOUNCED TO PRESS SERVICE CIFRA THAT NOTHING WAS KNOWN ABOUT AFFAIR AND NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT IT WAS EXPECTED.

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3. LOCAL PRESS PUBLISHED RESULTS OF REPORTERS' INVESTIGATIONS OF TWO SPANISH FIRMS WHICH CARVACHO LINKED WITH PLA, "MARIANO S.A." AND ODCHNOMOTOR, S.A." ACCORDING TO SPANISH PRESS, NEITHER FIRM LISTED IN SPANISH COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY. MADRID DAILY, INFOCQACIONES, HOWEVER, CONFIRMED THAT ENTERPRISE USING NAME OF TECHNOMOTOR, S.A. HAS BEEN OPERATING IN MADRID FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR WITH PREMISES IN NAME OF "JOSE MARTINEZ FEAL". INFORMACIOES HAD NO INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF THE FIRM BUT NOTED THAT ITS OFFICES WERE SAID TO BE FREQUENTLY VISITED BY "FOREIGN MEN".

4. WHILE PLA OFFICE IN MADRID INDOUBTEDLY EXISTS AND THERE IS

SUBSTANCE TO CARVACHO'S CLAIMS, MFA'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN AFFARIS NUNO AGUIRRE DE CARCER TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR GOS GRATIFIED THAT CARVACHO HAD EXONERATED SPAIN OF ANY COMPLICITY. HE NOTED THAT PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR MENESSES HAD COME TO MFA FOR WORKING VISIT (MAR 24) AND HAD NOT EVEN MENTIONED PLA AFFAIR. AGUIRRE ALSO STATED THAT SPANISH AMB IN LISBON HAD HAD VERY "FRIENDLY" DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES ON MARCH 17 IN WHICH BOTH SIDES HAD REAFFIRMED THEIR COUNTRIES' COMMITMENT TO GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY.

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